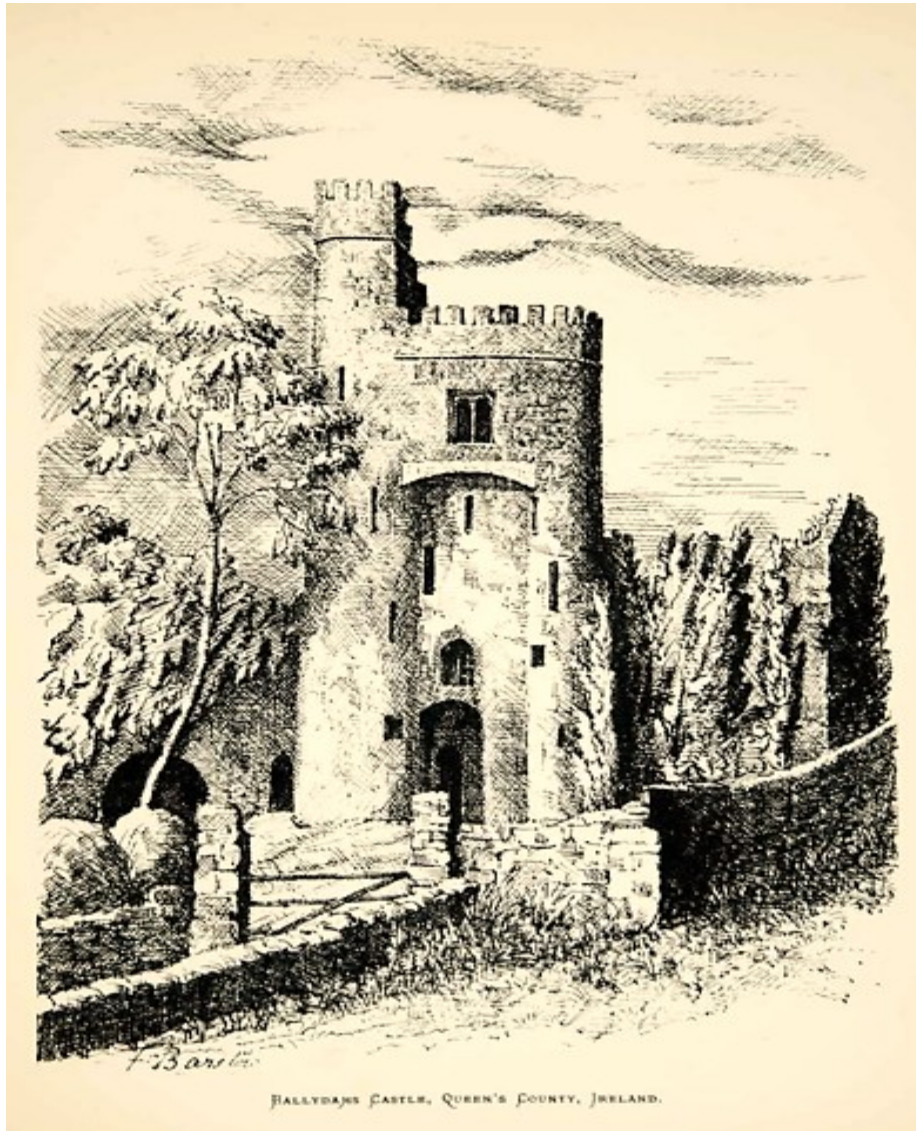


Ballyadams

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<https://laoishouses.wordpress.com/2021/11/26/ballyadams-castle/>



Ballyadams Castle in 1882.

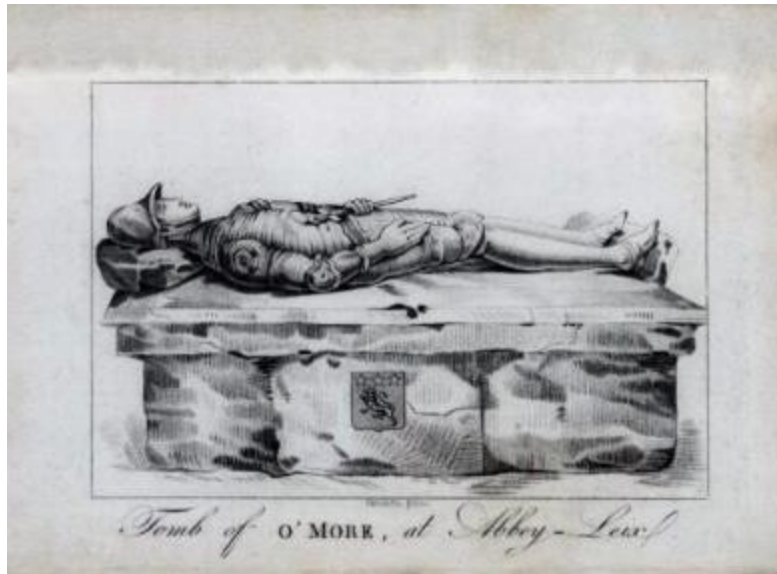
Ballyadams was part of the territory of the Uí Caollaidhe (Kelly of Timogue) chiefs of Críoch Uí mBuidhe when they sold it in the mid-1300s to the O'Moores. There are thoughts that the townland takes its name from an Adam O'Moore, as in some records it is called Adamstown, but the name evolved from Aedstown, or Baile Abbain after St Áed, the patron of the healing eye well, Tobernasuil, near Ballyadams graveyard. Kylmehyde as Ballyadams was originally called, can be broken up into Kyl denoting a cell or small church, (from Latin cella), and Mehhyde meaning Mhic Hyde or Mac Híde, the Son of Íde. Thus, Ballyadams was the church

or “Cell of Mac Híde,” (Son of Íde). The modern Irish name of Kilmakeady appears to be a little inaccurate, translating as the church or cell of Mac Éadaigh (Éide).

Castrum de Kylmehyde, modernly Kilmakeady, now known as Ballyadams, was the site of a castle that was likely to have been standing in 1301 when Edward I granted **Sir Eustace le Poer**, (d.1311) Baron of Kells, Co. Kilkenny, the right of free warren (the right to hunt game) on his lands in Waterford, Tipperary, Nurney in Carlow, Cullenagh and Kilmohede [Ballyadams] in Laois. (Calendar of Documents, Ireland, 1302-7). Eustace was a kinsman, possibly brother, to Sir John le Poer (d.1324), fourth husband of Dame Alice Kyteler who was accused of witchcraft in 1324, Sir John’s children being among those who complained about her after their father fell ill and died. Eustace le Poer had been succeeded by his nephew **Arnold le Poer** (d.1331), who would have held Ballyadams. Alice had at first sought refuge with her brother-in-law, Roger Outlawe, Chancellor of Ireland and she persuaded Arnold le Poer to imprison her accuser, Bishop Ledrede (d.1361) in Kilkenny Castle to hold up proceedings. When the bishop was released he had Alice’s maid, Petronella de Meath, tortured until she confessed to engaging in witchcraft, involving all sorts of imaginative rites with Dame Alice. She was made to confess that Alice was not only a heretic, but made potions to control people, had a relationship with a demon called Robin Artisson, and murdered all her husbands. Arnold le Poer was also imprisoned on charges of heresy and died a prisoner in Dublin Castle after he had been excommunicated by the fanatical Ledrede. Although it will never be known, one cannot help but wonder if a stopover at Ballyadams figured in Dame Alice’s successful flight to England or Flanders in which she took Petronella’s daughter Basila to safety with her. Petronella was whipped before being burnt alive at the stake. Arnold was succeeded by his eldest son **Eustace le Poer** (d.1346) who joined Maurice FitzGerald, Earl of Desmond in 1346. He was however captured at the siege of Castle Island, Co. Kerry, and hung, drawn and quartered for treason. The castle, presumably seized from Eustace by Ralph Ufford, Justiciar of Ireland, is recorded as being destroyed in 1346 by the O’Moore, O’Connors and the O’Dempseys. It is likely that the lower section of the great tower, technically a B-shaped gatehouse, was standing at this time.

The O’Moore

Daniel O’Byrne writing in 1856 thought that the tower at Ballyadams was constructed in the reign of Henry VII, which would be between 1485 to 1509, which suggests that it may have been built or rebuilt by **Melaghlin O’Moore**, Prince of Laois, (d.1502) (Melaghlin Ó Mórdha) whose tomb survives in Abbeyleigh. Melaghlin could be responsible for the ogee windows at the front and back of the tower, on the topmost floor, which is of later construction than the base. These were seen in Ireland throughout the 15th and up to the mid-16th century but it seems more likely that they were installed by John Bowen.



Melaghlin O'Moore's tomb in 1819. The effigy is much damaged since the engraving was made. The coat of arms was removed sometime in the 1800s and evidently is the one that appeared at Lamberton Park, from whence it was again removed and taken to Cremorgan upon the death of Judge Arthur Moore in 1843.



One of the ogee windows at Ballyadams when intact.

Rory O'Moore was the custodian of the manor of Kilmakeady until his death in 1354 during the rebellion of Maurice FitzGerald, 1st Earl of Desmond, when **Gerald de St Michael** of Rheban was appointed custodian. An inquisition found that Rory O'More had held Ballyadams on a mortgage from Connell mac Ross O'Moore for 'threescore kyne, that is to say, 60 head of cattle, and that he held Ballintubber with his father Connell mac Melaghlin from Fearganainm O'Kelly for threescore kyne more. The 'Annals of the Four Masters' record that Rory O'Moore, Lord of Leix, was slain by his kinsmen and household.

It was held in 1546 by **Gilla Patrick O'Moore**, Lord of Laois (d.1548). He was the son of Connell, son of Melaghlin (d.1502). Gilla Patrick together with the O'Connors, attacked Athy, both town and monastery, killing many English and Irish. In response, Lord Justice, Sir Anthony St Leger, combining forces with the Earl of

Desmond took control of Ballyadams by force, leaving warders in control. Gilla Patrick was the last O'Moore to have held the castle. O'Connor's fort at Daingean had also been previously captured and forts Governor in Offaly, and Protector in Laois, which were founded as government strongholds.

In 1550, the Privy Council offered to grant a lease of Ballyadams to **William Jarbard** in recognition of his services to the Crown but he never took it up and 17 years later he and his son Walter were living in Wexford, employed as Treasurer, Bailiff and Receiver of the county:

After our hartie comendacons; whereas, the Castle of Ballyadame being parcel of the late O'More's country, is presently with the rest in the King's Majesty's hands and disposition, and as yet remeyneth unsurveyed; ye shall understand the King's Majestie, by our advyce, having inclined to the humble suite of William Jarbard, whose service there hath bene, for longe and payneful endurance, commended, his Highness' pleasure is, that ye shall imediatelie proceed to the surveying of the castell, with the appurtenances, and thereupon make a lease thereof unto the said William Jarbard for xxi yeares accordingly; thus fare ye hertily well.-Westminster, the xxii of July, 1550. Your loving frendes, E. Somerset, W. Wiltes, John Bedforde, William Northe, William Petre, Anothony Wyngfelde.

The Bowens

In 1551, a 21-year lease was granted to **John ap Owein** (d.1569). Born in Glamorganshire, Welshman John Thomas, alias John ap Thomas ap Owen, or simply John Bowen, was nicknamed locally as "John of the Pike" or "Seán a Phíce" in Irish, because he always carried a pike.

John may have been a kinsman to Rhys Bowen who acquired Upton Castle, Pembrokeshire, in the 16th century. (Descendants of the Bowens of Upton settled at Courtwood, Co. Laois, where in 1796 Charles Bowen married Martha, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Hartpole of Shrute Castle. Their son, Charles Hartpole Bowen (b.1862) moved to Kilnacourt, Portarlington).

John Bowen of Ballyadams was of royal descent, being of the family of Bleddyn ap Maynerch, Lord of Brecknock, whose ancestry went back to Rees ap Tudor, King of South Wales (d.1093), an ancestor they shared with the FitzGerald. The House of Dinefwr to which Rees belonged, was founded by Rhodri the Great, who is called King of the Britons in the 'Annals of Ulster.' The Bowen genealogies, also record John's descent from Brychan Breckiniog, a 5th century King of Brycheiniog. He was an Irish prince who married into the Welsh kingdom of Garthmadrin. Brychan is mentioned in 'The Book of Leinster,' his father being Anlach mac Cormaic mac Urb of the Déisi, whose people are believed to have settled parts of Britain around the year 300.



The National Library of Wales acquired the Bowen pedigree in 2017 (NLW MS 24111G). Known as the 'Pedigree of John Bowen of Bath 1747-1835,' it consists of 36 panels comprised of 72 sheets laid on a linen backing. They were once held by a member of the Moore family, although whether or not this was the Moores of Laois or the Moores of Drogheda is uncertain. The pedigree roll is thought to have been written by the Rev. John Bowen of Bath and incorporates some 75 coats of arms showing lines of descent from Caradog Fraichvras, Brychan Brycheiniog, Cadwaladr and Bleddyn ap Maenarch. The original was the now lost 'Pedigree and achievements of Robert Bowen of Bally Adams of 1608.' This had been compiled by Thomas Jones (ca.1530-ca.1620) of Fountain Gate, Tregaron, and extended to 1720 by William Hawkins, Ulster King of Arms (1670-1736). The National Library of Ireland also holds a copy of the original pedigree together with Hawkins's continuation to 1720 (GO MS 160, pp. 54-58), where it is called 'The Pedigree of John Bowen Clerk... Examined and confirmed at the Carmarthen Gorse July 11th 1819.'

John Bowen died in 1569 without a will but leaving sons, Robert Bowen of Ballyadams and William Bowen of Castle Carra, Co. Mayo. A Fiant of that year names him as 'John Thomas alias Bowen, late of Ballyadam.' There are two accounts of John Bowen's death. According to local folklore recorded by Daniel O'Byrne (1856), "Shane Bawn," was remembered as a tyrant and a murderer of pregnant woman. One day an O'Moore took one of Bowen's sheep into a pit where he killed it and began roasting part of it. The herdsman saw him and told John Bowen who rode over to arrest the sheep stealer. However, upon finding it was an O'Moore, Bowen wheeled his horse around to gallop back to the castle. O'Moore shot him in the back through a gap in his mail, presumably with a bow or crossbow. O'Moore then crossed the fields, and taking the horse at the outer gate of the castle, he made his escape.

There is an alternative story recounting John Bowen's death that belongs to the family history of the late Johanna O'Dooley of Stradbally who told it to Nula Hayes (Laois Folk Tales, 2015). Johanna said that her ancestor Henry Lalor escaped the massacre at Mullaghmast and that his wife, three-year-old daughter, and their baby, were at his castle at Dysert Aengus at the time. Upon hearing

the approach of horsemen their herdsman took the baby boy away to hide him. The woman was murdered and the girl too, the girl being left hanging from a gatepost. The boy, Mathew Lalor, was brought to his mother's people in Orchard, Timahoe, and according to Johanna's tradition, it was this Mathew Lalor who killed John Bowen.

The story that a local chieftain killed John Bowen is present in both oral histories, as is the slaughter of women and children, however, the massacre at Mullaghmast is dated to 1578 at which time John Bowen was deceased some nine years and in addition, the genealogy Nula recorded for Johanna would place Henry Lalor as being born in the mid to late 18th century, several generations after these events. Yet, oral history and tradition are the music of history and sometimes tell the story in abstract better than pages of dates and facts. It reflects how the people of Laois perceived their story and depicted their heroes and villains. O'Byrne mentions traditions that claim John Bowen executed people at the Chapel Hill of Killeshin, the Ash trees of Rahen near Ballynan, the Highroy Bush and Knock Crana Crugha near Timahoe. He also reported the local belief that the first John Bowen of Ballyadams was buried at Timogue, in an unmarked grave close to the roadside wall.

Yet another version of the tale appears in the 'History of Queen's County and County Kildare,' Leinster Express (1901). In this story, Shamus O'Moore with his father escapes from Mullaghmast and got as far as Rehban Castle in company with an O'Kelly. Pursued by bloodhounds, father and son separated at Ballykilcavan, Shamus found protection at Ballyadams with a farmer called Daniel O'Lalor and assumed O'Lalor's surname and worked for him without wages until one day, when he was ploughing, John Bowen rode into the field, dismounted and recognized him, telling him that as he could not catch the old fox, he would be content with the cub, who would now return to Mullaghmast with him. When John remounted shot him between the joints of his armour with a "bowarra" (bow and arrow). This appears to have been the final evolution of the tale, which for good measure adds that as father and son escaped from Mullaghmast, the impression of their horses' hoofs were left on the stones they struck. It may be safely assumed that this version is more fiction than fact.

The great tower itself actually consists of two towers, the highest of which, contains a winding stone staircase, and is seventy-five feet high. It has rooms that are still intact because of their vaulted ceilings and a murder hole, or meurtrière, over the gate, through which defenders could fire arrows or drop stones down on attackers.

Traditionally, Seán a Phíce was credited with the creation of a "murder hole" near the castle entrance. In folk memory, again recorded by O'Byrne, this was a pit concealed by a trap door with a bone-breaking mill wheel halfway down to trap the victim. The confirmation of whether or not such a pit ever existed will perhaps make a good project for a future archaeologist, however, it could be that this tradition is a distorted memory of the construction of the murder hole over the gate.



The murder hole (1992).

The great tower, in essence, a B-shaped gatehouse, was originally the gatehouse to a larger castle and such gatehouses often contained the lord's private apartments. The large original entrance that passed through the tower was eventually blocked up and a doorway inserted, essentially converting the building into a tower house. It is also evident that the height of the tower was extended at the same time, creating the murder hole. The great tower resembles the gatehouse at Neath Castle, Glamorganshire which was destroyed, by Humphrey de Bohun, 4th Earl of Hereford, in 1321, from whom the Bowens also claimed descent. Hugh Despenser the Younger is credited with the rebuilding of the castle in 1376, including the gatehouse and it could well be that John Bowen knew this place in his youth and remodelled the tower at Ballyadams based on Neath.



Depiction of the gatehouse at Neath Castle, Glamorganshire by Dugdale.



Ballyadams showing clear evidence of conversion from gatehouse to tower house.

John Bowen had a daughter called Margaret who married Gerald Oge Fitzgerald of Morett. The story begins with Gerald FitzGerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, who died a prisoner in the Tower of London. He had a son by Alison FitzEustace, his first wife, called Silken Thomas FitzGerald (potential king of Ireland) who was executed at Tyburn in 1535 with his five uncles. By his second marriage to Elizabeth Grey, he had Gerald FitzGerald (d.1585), who became the 11th Earl of Kildare (known as the Wizard Earl) who married Mabel Browne (d.1610) on 28 May 1554. There is some discussion about whether or not Gerald, the Wizard Earl, also had a relationship before this with Elinor, daughter of the O'Kelly of Timogue. One possibility is that there was some sort of union between Gerald and Elinor under Brehon law although the FitzGeralds of Morett claimed that Gerald and Elinor married before Thomas Leverous (later Bishop of Kildare) in 1545. Either way, they were the parents of Gerald Oge Fitzgerald who lived in Morett Castle and who married Margaret Bowen of Ballyadams.

It is known that the Wizard Earl went into hiding following the execution of his half-brother and uncles in 1537 because he was in danger as a claimant to the Earldom. He spent some time in Tír Chonaill under the protection of his aunt,

Eleanor McCarthy, and her husband, Manus O'Donnell. His supporters, known as the Geraldine League, mostly comprised the O'Neills, the O'Donnells and the O'Briens of Thomond but these were defeated in August 1539 after which FitzGerald fled to Europe under the protection of Francis I of France and Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire. He was educated in Liège and later studied in Rome under Cardinal Pole, after which he went on crusade with the Knights of Rhodes. After ten years in exile, he ventured to England following the death of Henry VIII in 1547 and was reconciled to Edward VI. It is most unlikely that he was secretly in Laois two years earlier marrying Elinor Kelly, although he may have gone to Ireland after 1547 when the king restored his lands to him. If there was a relationship, then it has to have been sometime between 1547 and 1554 when Mary I, created him 11th Earl of Kildare in acknowledgement of his support of her during the Wyatt Rebellion, which was an attempt to stop Mary from marrying King Phillip of Spain.

But what of the legends that Gerald, 11th Earl of Kildare murdered the O'Kelly of Timogue and claimed his lands in the reign of Elizabeth Tudor, sometime after 1558? In the version given by Garrett Byrne of Fallowbeg, in 1579 Fergus O'Kelly, presumably, the brother of Elinor, married an O'Byrne of Glenmalure and built for her a house of stone in one week. O'Kelly's servant, a man named MacLeod, being away at the Feast of Michaelmas, was annoyed to find that no goose was left for him on his return. O'Kelly told him to settle the matter with the cook or else go to the yard and kill one for himself. Garrett says that MacLeod disappeared instead off to see the Earl of Kildare at Kilkea and took it on himself to invite the Earl to spend Christmas with O'Kelly of Timogue. When the time came, O'Kelly received his unexpected guest with good grace. At Candlemas, the Earl asked O'Kelly if he could stand sponsor for O'Kelly's first child who was as yet unborn. He returned following the child's birth and was godfather at the christening but the following morning O'Kelly's wife and child were found dead. The Earl invited the grieving O'Kelly back to Kilkea where a few days later he was taken to the top of the tower to be shown the view. It was a trap and he was beheaded by Kildare's men. Garrett Byrne of Fallowbeg said that heard this story from Edmund Cowen who had heard it from Catherine McJames who had worked for O'Kellys. The story was published in 'The London Literary Gazette and Journal of Belles Lettres' in 1831. However, the story cannot be true in this version, as there is no doubt that the Earl of Kildare was not in Ireland at this time. But, as H.F. Hore noted, Timogue does appear in the 9th Earl of Kildare's rental roll, even if no rent was collected. (*The Rental Book of Gerald, Ninth Earl of Kildare, A.D. 1518*).

Daniel O'Byrne (1856) also told the story of the stone house built in a week, only in his version it was Rory Oge O'Moore (d.1578) who built it for Maighréad (Margaret) Maol O'Byrne, the sister of Feagh mac Hugh O'Byrne. If anything, this version of the building of the stone house appears more reliable as unlike the O'Kelly-O'Byrne alliance, the O'Moore-O'Byrne marriage is verifiable. O'Byrne also says that the site of the house was called "Shanish Clough"- Old Stone, which as far as the name goes, agrees with Garrett Byrne's account. When Daniel O'Byrne relates the story of O'Kelly's death, which he says he took from a history of Kilkea written by the Marquis of Kildare, there are differences. In this version, the wife of O'Kelly disagreed with a servant called Macgloud, (a phonetic variation of MacLeod) and Macgloud took himself off to Kilkea and invited the earl to visit O'Kelly. The earl visited and seeing that O'Kelly's wife was pregnant he asked if he could sponsor the child when it was born. Returning to Timogue for this event, that night mother and child were found dead. O'Kelly returned to Kilkea with the earl who had O'Kelly

ambushed and beheaded whilst he was being shown the view from the top of the castle. O'Byrne says this was in 1580. But again, the problem is that the earl was absent from Ireland at this period.

The story is more plausible if the Fitzgerald involved was Gerald Oge Fitzgerald and the beheading was at Morett Castle rather than Kilkea. The incident would also make more sense if Fitzgerald of Timogue believed that he had some right of inheritance regarding Timogue via his mother. This would also fit with other Laois traditions claim that the O'Moores burned Morett Castle in retaliation for the murder of O'Kelly in 1600, killing both Gerald Oge Fitzgerald and his wife, Margaret Bowen. It was said that the O'Moore who headed the attack hid his identity by claiming to the defenders of Morett that his name was O'Neill. A memorial inscription in the church at Timogue mentions the Bowen-Fitzgerald relationship, the murder and the burning of Morett.



In this vault and ground lie the remains of Gerald Fitzgerald of Morett, Esq., and of his wife a daughter of John Bowen, of Ballyadams, Esq. He was murdered and his castle burned in the reign of Elizabeth. And of his only son, Gerald Fitzgerald, of Timogue, Esq. And of his wife, a daughter of O'Demesy, Lord of Clanmalere. And of his eldest son, Thomas Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esqr. And of his wife a daughter of John Picat of Dysart, Esquire. And of his eldest son, Stephen Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esq. And of his wife a daughter of Henry Gilbert, of Kilmenchy, Esquire. And of his eldest son, Thomas Fitzgerald, of Morett, Esquire. And of his wife, a daughter of Sir Gregory Byrne, Bart. He dyed on the 18th day of April, 1754.

The only child of Garrett Oge and Margaret, another Gerald, is said to have been with his Bowen grandparents at the time, presumably at Ballyadams, which may indicate that an attack was expected, and so he survived. This Gerald, also known as Garret Buidhe because of his yellow hair, married a daughter of O'Dempsey, Lord Clanmalier. He became a Colonel in the Confederate army and raised a life guard to protect James Tuchet, 3rd Earl of Castlehaven. His other nickname, obviously attained in later life, was "Old Gerald."

John's successor at Ballyadams, **Robert Bowen** (d.31 July 1621), alias Robert Thomas, had his tenure renewed as a grant in capite on 31 August 1578, by which he held the castle by knight's service. He became Provost Marshall of Leinster and Meath.

The rebel Bowens

Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone, disappointed in his hopes to be named Lord President of Ulster, entered into a conflict in 1593 that was to be known as the Nine Years' War, in which he was joined by Hugh Roe O'Donnell, their intention being to re-establish King Philip II of Spain as King of Ireland. Many joined them in the coming years, including the O'Moores, and in May 1596 they defeated the Cosbys at the Battle of Stradbally Bridge under the leadership of O'wney mac Rory O'Moore. O'Neill secured a signal victory at the Battle of the Yellow Ford on 14 August 1598 and in the following year, Sir George Carew said of Laois:

'... not one of us make any profit of these lands, neither have we any part of them in possession save only the two have Castles Dysert and Ballyadams, which Pigott and Bowen hold by the sufferance of the rebels hitherto; and now they say they shall hold them no longer. I am persuaded they are or will be lost very shortly.'

O'wney O'Moore secured another victory in Laois at the Pass of the Plumes on 17 May 1599 and Robert Pigott had fled to England by 1600. Writing to Sir Robert Cecil on 7 May 1600, Pigott says that he had not come over to seek relief at the hands of the Queen till necessity forced him to through the extreme miseries he had endured. He sought help also for his allies and kinsmen, the Breretons, Barringtons and Danyels but made no mention of the Bowens. Together with the Hartpoles, they had by now evidently joined the rebels. However, Spain never gave substantial military help to their "Irish province" and O'Neill surrendered on 30 March 1603, neither knowing that Queen Elizabeth had just died or that there was no money left to raise another army against him.

On 18 March 1604, pardons were granted to Robert Bowen Esq., of Ballyadams, William Hartpole of Blackforde, John, Thomas and Edward Bowen, gentlemen, Muintagh O'Dowlin, Donell McEvoy, and Donogh McEvoy, husbandmen (tenant farmers), Donogh O'Loghnan, carpenter, William McEdmund and Donogh mac Awly O'Doine, husbandmen, all of Ballyadams. (Deputy Keeper of Public Records in Ireland: eighteenth report, 1886).

Edward Bowen, being the youngest son of Robert, does not appear to have inherited land, at least he was not mentioned in the remainder to the family estates in Robert Bowen's Will of 1621, so he may have been deceased by then. His uncle, William Bowen, in his will (proved in 1549) had left him £20.

In 1609 Robert Bowen, Henry Brereton and Alexander Barrington asked to go through the process of surrender and regrant, in which James I accepted the surrender of their properties and regranted them to hold of the Crown:

At the suit of Robert Bowen of Adamstown [Ballyadams] in the Queen's County, Provost-Marshal of Leinster and of the County of Meath, his Majesty accepts the surrender of the said Robert Bowen, Henry Brereton, and Alexander Barrington, jointly and severally at their pleasure, of the castle, towns and lands of Adamstown, of Ballyntubered, and of Rossbranagh; also the town lands and village of Loghteoige in the said County, in the tenure of Henry Brereton; and of the castle, town, and lands of Cullinagh in the said County, in the tenure of the Alexander Barrington; and of the town and lands of Castlekarrow in Mayo; [the other Bowen property] and of all their other possessions in the realm of Ireland. Directing that the same be regranted to them in fee-farm.

Robert Bowen was also granted a pension in consideration of the losses that he and his son Oliver had sustained at the hands of rebels in the Nine Years' War. The change of sides appears to have been overlooked and Robert claimed that he

was now so impoverished that he would be unable to provide for his children in his will.

Fortunately, copies survive of two of the wills that Robert Bowen made. The one dated 3 April 1619, begins: 'I Robert Bowen of Balliaddams in the Queens Countye Esquire, being farre stricken in age and therefore having noe long tyme to live, but of perfect mynd and memorye, thanks be to God, doe revoke all former wills by me made...' After directing his body to be buried in the church of 'Kilmokidy' [Ballyadams] he left his wife 'Elise Hartpoole' his leases of the two rectories of Rathaspoke and Kilmokidy, together with the wardship of the body and lands of Thomas Keating of Croftantegle. She was also left all his 'corn in ground and above,' his plate, bedding, linen, and kitchen utensils, together with the cattle and stock that he had left in 'Castle Carye' (Co. Mayo) with their son John Bowen. It was witnessed by Thomas, Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, William Skilton and Arthur Bladesmith.

Bowen's wardship of Thomas Keating is interesting because the Keatings, another planter family of Laois, had joined the O'Moores in the Nine Years' War under Redmond fitz John Keating and the 1640 survey records this Thomas Keating, along with the families of Hartpole, Hovendon and St Leger as the 'papist proprietors of Slievemargy' before their lands were confiscated. Croftantegle, also known as Crottentegle (Crochta an tSeagail) was later known as Ashfield and its 415 acres were granted to Parliamentary Adventurer and soldier Anthony Gale who married a Wandesforde of Castlecomer. He was there at the time of the 1659 Census.

Robert Bowen made another will dated 17 July 1621. There was no mention of Keating this time, so presumably, he had come of age. In this will, Robert desires his wife to enjoy the same thirds as his mother had, 60 acres in Ballintubber and 20 acres in Ballintlea. The plate etc were to be equally divided between her and his son John whilst his second son Oliver, and third son Thomas, were to pay such head-rents on the Mayo estates of Castlecarry, Liskilline, Robyne, Killgonill, and Toghire as his sons-in-law 'Thomas Ram, Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin and Alexander Barrington, shall think right.' Ballyadams and his other Laois properties were to be entailed on his son John with remainder to his other sons Oliver and Thomas, then to his nephew Edmond Bowen of Crunnagh (son of Thomas Bowen and Elizabeth Warier), then to the heirs of his grandson Robert by his wife Mary Hungerford. His witnesses this time were Teige O'Curran, Piers Lawless, and John Phelan.

In his time Robert had expanded the family estate by the grants of two patronages, meaning that he had the right to appoint vicars at Ballyadams and Ballintubber, churches he probably built or at least rebuilt. He also received a watermill that had belonged to the monastery of St John of Athy and a burgage plot in Maryborough. Robert must have died at around the age of 77 as a Co. Mayo Exchequer Inquisition had found that he was aged 50 on the death of his brother William Bowen of Castlecarra in 1594. Robert himself died on 31 July 1621, leaving three sons, John, the eldest, who succeeded to Ballyadams; Oliver, the second son; and Thomas of Liskellin Castle, Co. Mayo, which he purchased in 1625. Thomas was the ancestor of Rev. Christopher Bowen, Rector of Heatherfield, Isle of Wright (d.1900) and Judge Charles Bowen (d.1894), created Baron Bowen in 1893).

Oliver Bowen purchased Burriscarra in Co. Mayo from John Kinge on 15 November 1608 but he mortgaged his lands in 1632 to Sir Thomas Blake of Menlo for £400. In 1642, Oliver took refuge from the war in Ireland with his cousin, Phillip Bowen of Haskard, Pembrokeshire, Wales, where he died leaving no children. It is

interesting to see that the Bowen family in Ireland kept contact with their Welsh kinfolk, several of whom were high sheriffs of Pembrokeshire. James Bowen, who was high sheriff in 1622, is recorded in the 'Visitation of Pembrokeshire' in 1591 and he may have been nephew to John of the Pike.

The Bowen monument

In 1631, ten years after Robert's death, an armorial monument was constructed to his memory in Ballyadams Church with the effigies of him and his wife, Alice Hartpole. Although she did not die until 4 June 1634 it was not unusual for a widow to prepare such a monument. Similar is to be found in Old Leighlin Cathedral where on the 1569 altar tomb of William McFirr O'Brin, Burgess of Old Leighlin, his wife, Winifred Kavanagh, also left gaps on the monument left that were intended to record her own date of death. The Bowen memorial itself is not dissimilar in design to that constructed a couple of years earlier at Lorrha, Co. Tipperary commemorating Johannis O'Kennedy. According to the Ordinance Survey papers, Ballyadams Church was built by Robert Bowen, a Catholic. The Alice Hartpole, wife of Robert Bowen, commemorated on the tomb was a daughter of Robert Hartpole of Shrulle, Constable of Carlow Castle in 1577 and of Grania or Gráinne Byrne. Gráinne was a member of the Coultelman O'Byrnes of Carlow and was sister to one of their leaders, Owen mac Dowlagh O'Byrne of Tinryland, Sergeant to Robert Hartpole. Owen was described by Shane MacGillapatrik of Kilbride as no less than "a common extortioner." Curiously, the memorial to John Bowen's son, Robert Bowen (d.1621) and his wife (Alice Hartpole) is referred to on the first edition Ordnance Survey map as 'Shone Apheeka Bowen's Tomb,' an impression shared by O'Hanlon who says it commemorates Robert's son John [Bowen] nicknamed "John of the Pike."

Around the three sides of the Bowen monument are eight recesses, containing figures of members of the Bowen family with their names inscribed overhead and under the armorial bearings of Robert and Alice, is the following inscription:

'If tears prevent not, every reader's eye
May well perceive that on this tomb dooth lye
Friend's hope, foe's dread, whose thrice victorious hand
Gain'd love, wrought peace, within this joyful land;
Whose worth dooth mount itself on angell's wings,
Whose great descent was first from Royal Kings;
Whose never-dying virtues live for aye,
Whose fame's eternized; it can never dye.'



The Bowen memorial in 1794.



Bowen Monument, *Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society* (1914).



Gerald Villers Butler's photograph of the Bowen monument (1914).

Sir John Bowen (1574-9 February 1644) was knighted on 13 November 1629 and succeeded his father as Provost-Marshall of Leinster and Meath. James Tuchet, 3rd Earl of Castlehaven, recounts in his 'Memoirs' how he went to Ballyadams in 1643 with a troop of horse and spoke to Sir John Bowen "an old soldier," telling him that he intended to garrison the castle. Bowen, however, refused to surrender Ballyadams and calling for his wife and two daughters, he asked where Castlehaven intended to place his guns. When asked what he meant by this, Bowen replied, "I will cover that part, or any other your lordship shoots at, by hanging out both my daughters in chairs." Castlehaven wrote: 'Tis true the place was not of much importance; however, this conceit saved it.' The story is recounted in a poem called 'The Romance of Ballyadams.' (The Rhyme Book, Hercules Ellis, 1851).

The Marquis of Ormonde took Captain Sir John Crosby, Richard Grace, Gerald Oge FitzGerald of Morett and Sir John Bowen prisoners in April 1642. Sir John Bowen was tried for high treason on 31 January 1643 but acquitted and released on 7 February. The family entry in Burke states that he died on 9 February 1644 aged 70.



James Tuchet, 3rd Earl of Castlehaven.

Sir John's wife, Elis (Ellice), was a daughter of Myler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel. Their marriage settlements were drawn up on 18 March 1601. Magrath had been a Franciscan priest who had become Bishop of Down in 1565. Converting to Protestantism on 31 May 1567, in 1570 he was made Bishop of Clogher and promoted to Archbishop of Cashel on 3 February 1571, dying on 14 November 1622. His son, Donough, alias Giilagruama Magrath, was Chief of Termon-Magrath, in Fermanagh.

The Manor House

Sir John's son **William Bowen** (d.1686) succeeded to three castles Ballyadams, Ballintubber and Derrinroe (later Kellyville), forty messuages or farm-steads, a wind-mill, a water-mill (at Rosbran) and two pigeon-houses. He also held the patronage of the churches of Fonstowne (Ballintubber) and Killmoheide (Ballyadams). He may well have built the manor house adjoined to the tower, which was probably in the Jacobean style and the windows dressed with stone, of which only a couple of segments remain. The 'History of Queen's County and County Kildare,' Leinster Express (1901) claims it was built by Robert Bowen but gives no source. It appears to have consisted of two stories over a basement and would have become the main entrance to the castle. It probably incorporates parts of the original curtain wall and perhaps some sections of earlier buildings.



A very rough impression of how the Bowen Manor house at Ballyadams may have appeared. This was the front of the Bowen's manor house of two stories over a basement, the front door originally being approached by a flight of steps.

William Bowen died aged 72 on 10 April 1686. The day before he died he made a verbal will in the presence of George Bowen, John Dwyer, Bridget Bowen and Ann Reynolds. An Ulster Office Funeral Entry records that William Bowen of Ballyadams son of Sir John Bowen was married to Bridget, daughter of Sir Robert Tynte of Ballycrenane, by whom he had two daughters. The eldest, Helena, married Edward Brereton of Loughtioge, and the younger, Katherine, married Peirce Butler of Killvelaugh. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir William Domville, he had a son named John Bowen, and three daughters, Bridget, Mary, and Lucy. The son, John Bowen, made a statement to Sir Richard Carney, Ulster King of Arms, that his father William 'departed this mortal life at his house at Ballyadams aforesaid, on Sunday the eleventh day of April 1686, and was interred the Sunday then next following, being the eighteenth day of the same month in the church of Ballyadams aforesaid.'



The east front of Ballyadams in 1914 when the tower was still roofed and habitable.

John Bowen (d.1691) did not long outlive his father. He died intestate, that is to say, without a will and having never married, administration of his estate was granted to his mother on 19 January 1691, his heirs being his sisters, although his uncle, George Bowen of Derrinroe (Kellyville) disputed this. George left a will dated 26 December 1699:

I will and devise that all my real estate of Inheritance of which I die seized or possessed of, or of right I ought to have the whole lordship or Manor of Ballyadams in as large and ample manner as my brother William dyed seized and possessed of the same, and all his lands and tenements in the Kingdom of Ireland, I leave and bequeath to my eldest son Henry Bowen and his male heirs, and in default of such to his second son Andrew and his male heirs.

The estate, however, was divided between John Bowen's two half-sisters, Hellena Bowen who married Edward Brereton of Loughtioge and Katherine Bowen, who married Pierce Butler, and his full sisters, Bridget Bowen who married Thomas Carr of the City of Dublin, Mary Bowen, who died unmarried and Lucy Bowen. On her death in 1749, Bridget left Ballintubber, to Lucy's children. The Georgian house at Ballintubber, then a vicarage, was the birthplace in 1904 of poet Cecil Day-Lewis who wrote two poems about the 'elegant, shabby, white-washed house.' In his father's time, Caroline Butler of Ballyadams House played the organ in the church on Sunday and Rosie Butler ran the Sunday school. Once home once to the late actor, Sir John Hurt, it may well have begun life as one of the Bowen castles.

Ballyadams Castle itself went to **Lucy Bowen** who in 1709 married Colonel William Southwell (1669-1720) of William Street, Dublin. Southwell's mother was Elizabeth O'Brien, daughter of Murrough O'Brien, 1st Earl of Inchiquin, a descendent of Brian Boru. Dame Lucy, in her will (proved in 1788), wished to be buried at Ballyadams.



Medieval tower and Jacobean House, Ballyadams Castle in 1992.

However, the estate eventually came to **Katherine Bowen**, who had married Pierce Fitz James Butler of Kilmoyer Co. Tipperary. The 'History of Queen's County and County Kildare,' Leinster Express (1901) attributes the building of the N.E. wing to him. They had a daughter, Ellen Butler, who in turn married Stephen Creagh and had a son, **Stephen Creagh-Butler** of Brittas, Co. Limerick, who added Butler to his surname following an inheritance from an uncle. In 1759 Stephen Creagh-Butler sold the estate to **Garret Butler** of Garranlea, Co. Tipperary (no immediate

relation), son of Alexander Butler of Ballymore. Garret claimed that he had purchased it on a lease of lives forever but Stephen Creagh-Butler challenged this, maintaining that the property was still his. Creagh-Butler appears in the Qualification Rolls on 1 November 1745, because as a Catholic he took the precaution of taking an oath of allegiance to avoid penal law being used against him but in 1786 the courts ordered his estates be sold for payment of debts. He died in Dublin in 1795, leaving his claim to Ballyadams to his natural son, William Butler.

On 10 August 1782, in the time of Garret Butler, the antiquary Austin Cooper visited Ballyadams and wrote:

At Ballyadams is a large castle; the front consists of two large round towers, between which is an entrance, and over it a wall is carried in a line with the exterior limits of these towers, so as to form a machicolation over the door. Adjoining these towers on each side are two large modern wings, one of which is kept in repair as a lodge by Mr Butler, the present proprietor; the other never was finished. The inside of the castle exhibits a scene sufficient to excite compassion from every lover of ancient grandeur - the boarded floors all torn up, the plastered walls and ceilings threatening the observer with destruction, and, to complete this grand scene of desolation, the great state room still remains hung with elegant tapestry now left to rot away.

Ballyadams Castle may have been briefly occupied in the 1790s by Garrett's son-in-law **Daniel Beere**. Garrett's daughter, Margaret Butler, had married Daniel Beere (1757-1831) in January 1791. Daniel was the son of Garrett's land steward George Beere (1718-1799). (Hibernian Journal & Walker's Hibernian Magazine).

Beere, Miss = Tuthill, John	1794	500
„ Daniel = Butler, Miss, d. of Gerald, of Ballyadams,	1806	512
Queen's co.	Feb. 1791	192

The Beere family of Skinner Row, Dublin were notable goldsmiths, with George also being Warden of Dublin's Goldsmith's Company. Several other members of the family found employment as clerks and agents. Daniel Beere himself was Deputy Pursuivant of the Court of Exchequer.

Garrett Butler was with his daughter and son-in-law at Ballyadams when the rebellion broke out in 1798. There was an attack upon the castle and the church, and according to the story told to the Kildare Archaeological Association, Garrett left Ballyadams "in the night," presumably to secure his property at Garranlea, near Cashel in Tipperary.

Garrett's son **Edward Gerald Butler** (1770-1824) joined the 14th Dragoons in 1788 and in 1791 exchanged to the 24th Regiment of Foot. He married Barbara Boland on 10 November 1791 in Cork, but she appears to have died soon after. In 1793 he sold his commission and joined an independent company of foot, but the venture failed and in 1794 Edward Gerald purchased a cornetcy in the 15th Light Dragoons. The regiment was sent to Flanders to fight the French and the following month he purchased a lieutenancy in the 11th Dragoons but had not yet taken it up when he saw action at Villers en Couché on 24 April 1794. Francis II, Emperor of Austria, leaving Brussels, suddenly found himself in danger of capture by the French. The 15th Dragoons and the Austrian Hussars were ordered into action and after some desperate fighting, the emperor was saved although Edward Gerald had his horse shot from under him. In late 1795 he was promoted to captain and on 12 April 1796, he was transferred and promoted to major in the 87th Foot (Royal Irish



Fusiliers). His regiment was sent to the West Indies to garrison St Lucia. It was here that Edward Gerald, then Commander of Castries, married the 17-year-old Rosetta des Rameaux. Her family were distant cousins of Josephine de La Pagerie, mistress and then wife of Napoleon Bonaparte.

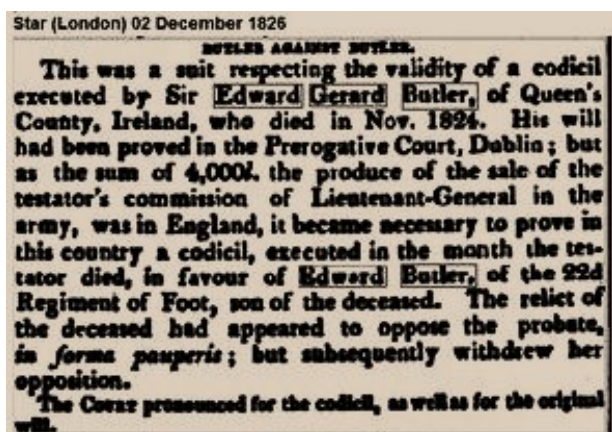
Their eldest son, Edward was born in 1799 in Martinique. The following year Edward and Rosetta had another son, Gerald Villers Butler, born in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, whilst Edward Gerald was on leave. In the same year, he was granted the title of Knight of the Imperial Military Order of Maria Theresa in recognition of his part in protecting the emperor. In 1802, they had a daughter Rosetta Frances, who was also born in Harpenden and Edward Gerald, now on half-pay, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. However, in 1803 the British Empire was at war with France again. They had another son, Walter Butler born in Dublin in 1804 and the 18th Earl of Ormonde stood as his godfather. Edward Gerald became colonel of the 87th Foot and was stationed in Guernsey where he formed a close friendship with the le Marchant family. His son, Gerald Villers Butler was to call his eldest son Villers le Marchant Butler. With the threat of invasion gone following the British naval victory at Trafalgar in 1805, Edward Gerald's battalion was moved to Frome in Somerset where their son Richard was born in 1806. He was sent to South America where his forces helped to capture Montevideo in Uruguay. His regiment was next sent to garrison the Cape of Good Hope and in 1809 Sir Edward Gerald was appointed Commandant of Simons Town but the following year he was ordered to Mauritius where he was appointed Commandant of Mahebourg. Edward Gerald sent his wife Rosetta back to England in 1811 to enroll their eldest son Edward in military college and by 1814 Sir Edward Gerald held the rank of Major-General.

The still young Rosetta died in Bristol in 1816 and their son, now Ensign Edward Butler of the Cheshire Regiment was sent to Mauritius as Sir Edward Gerald's ADC. Edward Gerald was in London in 1818, and after visiting Dublin, he and his daughter Rosetta returned to England to stay at Knowle House, Ulcombe, as guests of the Marquess of Ormonde. Although Sir Edward Gerald and the Marquis were the same age, Rosetta was betrothed to Ormonde, but the Marquis died soon after in 1821 before they could be married.

The widowed Sir Edward Gerald had begun an affair with Mary Byfield who had a son with him but he actually married Ellinor Lawrence on 19 September 1818, in Berkshire. The relationship was brief and he deserted her in the town of Bath. Settling in Ballyadams, his son Edward tendered Edward Gerald's resignation to the army on his behalf, but Edward Gerald died on 30 November 1824. The army accepted Edward's request to withdraw the letter as the death followed the letter so quickly and the commission was valuable. Sir Edward Gerald's will, mentions a natural daughter called Sally Landrigan, who was to receive £20 a year plus £40 for her dowry. His memorial at Ballyadams reads:

'Sacred to the memory of Major General Sir Edward Gerald Butler KTKMT [Knight of the Order of the Maria Theresa], who departed this life the 30th Novr 1824 in the 54th year of his age and whose remains repose in the vault beneath. A kind father, a gallant soldier, he distinguished himself on the field of battle and served his country in the four quarters of the world. He left four sons and one daughter to lament his loss.'

Major Edward Butler (1798-1861) had composed his father's will and codicil, which Sir Edward Gerald's deserted widow, Ellinor, sought to contest. However, she subsequently withdrew her claim.



Edward Butler's younger brother, Captain Gerald Villers Butler, was born on 24 November 1800 in the West Indies. He married Charlotte Jackson on 3 December 1834 in St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh and died on 10 October 1854 in Australia. Gerald Villers became Government Resident at Guichen Bay in 1846 before moving to Hobart, Tasmania, in 1849. His son, Lieutenant Villars Butler, was in New Zealand before returning to Ireland in 1864. His cousin, Walter Butler, served in the customs at Melbourne in 1854 before working at the Gold Warden's Office at Beechworth in 1856. These Butlers left a fascinating collection of family papers and letters to the University of Melbourne (Butler Family Collection), describing life in the colonies.

Sir Edward Gerald Butler's son, **Major Edward Butler** (1798-1861) married Catherine McCarthy and had two daughters, Rosette (Rosie) and Catherine, and a son, another Gerald Villers Butler, not to be confused with his uncle in Australia of the same name. Edward Butler may well have built or rebuilt Ballyadams House from the proceeds of the sale of his father's commission. James Norris Brewer saw the castle in 1826 and by his description the manor house portion was in ruins although the tower must have remained intact and habitable. Edward is listed in Lewis' 'Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' as being of Ballyadams Castle in 1837 but he lost ownership in 1840, when Thomas Kemmis, JP, of Shaen (1798-1844) foreclosed on a mortgage. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) describes Ballyadams House as a 'five-bay single-storey house with dormer attic, c. 1865, possibly incorporating fabric of an earlier building, with advanced entrance bay and gable.' However, the Macleans, Robert and Sarah, were living in Ballyadams Castle by 1841, when their daughter Ellen was born, if not earlier, which suggests that Ballyadams House was built before that year.

Ballyadams House, described as modern and with 53 acres, was advertised for sale in the Dublin Evening Post on 11 August 1853. It can only be assumed that the Butlers purchased it. A.H. Maclean was the agent for the sale.



Ballyadams House

QUEEN'S COUNTY.—TO BE SOLD, the Interest in the Lease, which is for Lives Renewable for Ever, of the House and Demesne of **BALLYADAMS**, containing fifty-two Acres of Prime Land, tastefully planted and laid out, with an excellent Garden well stocked with Fruit Trees. The House is modern, and contains Parlour, Drawing-room, Breakfast Room, six best Bedchambers, Servants' Apartments, &c.

Ballyadams is situated one mile from the Post Town of Ballylinan, three of Stradbally, and three of Athy, where there is a Station of the Great Southern Railway.

There are all requisite Out-offices, Coach-house, Stabling, Cow-house, Barn, &c.

The Crops now growing can be had at a valuation.

For Terms, and Tickets to see the place, apply to **H. MACLEAN**, House and Land Agent, 6, Westmorland-street, Dublin.

Major Edward Butler's son, **Gerald Villers Butler** (1829-1914) of Ballyadams graduated from Trinity College, Dublin. He remained at Ballyadams as a tenant with his son **Walter William Butler** (1870-1929). At the time of the 1901 census, Gerald Villers, then aged 70, recorded himself as 'Esquire and BA, TCD' and his son Walter William as a farmer.

A descendent of the Butler family purchased Ballyadams, house, castle and farm, in the mid-20th century and today it is owned by David Butler.

The first mention of a Maclean in connection with Ballyadams so far discovered belongs to the story of Captain Constantine Maguire (ca.1777-1834) of Tempo, Co. Fermanagh. He married Frances Augusta Maclean (1783-1840) in 1804 and the couple had one daughter, Florence Elizabeth Maguire, who was born in Athlone in 1805. Florence Maguire married Rev. Henry Hickman Brereton (1802-1894) of Ballyadams, a cousin of the Bowens, on 17 September 1831 at St Mary's, Donnybrook, Dublin. He was a chaplain of the East India Company and son of

Captain Arthur Brereton who died at Ballyadams in 1836. Arthur Brereton was a son of Major John Brereton (1722-1816), nephew and heir of Bowen Brereton, and son of Helena, daughter of William Bowen (1620-1686) of Ballyadams Castle.

The story of Florence's father is told in 'Captain Cohonny, Constantine Maguire of Tempo' by W.A. Maguire. In 1833 her mother, Frances Maclean, attempted to divorce Constantine on the grounds of his adultery with his mistress, Eleanor Gavan, who went on to have five children with him. The Maguires of Tempo had gained an estate in the Ulster Plantation of 1610 but this was greatly reduced by the time that Constantine Maguire inherited it in 1800. Constantine Maguire's mother, Phoebe Macnamara was the daughter of Ellen Butler who was a daughter of Pierce Butler of Ballycarron, Tipperary, and Katherine Bowen, a daughter of William Bowen of Ballyadams Castle (1620-1686). Ellen Butler, the wife of George McNamara, had been previously married to Stephen Creagh, and thus was mother to Stephen Creagh-Butler who had sold Ballyadams.

Constantine Maguire was notorious for an incident in which he and his brothers Brian and Stephen had attacked the Rev. Lucas Bell in 1798. Rev. Bell owned a flax kiln that the Maguire brothers set on fire. Constantine took a shot at the vicar in the ensuing uproar and was subsequently charged with attempted murder, for which he served three months. Thus, a descendent of William Bowen was a United Irishman. Constantine later found himself in a debtors' prison, the Marshalsea in Dublin, where he lived for seven years with his mistress. Eventually, Constantine found a home in Co. Tipperary where he inherited 900 acres. Meanwhile, he had a boundary dispute with neighbouring farmers to his land in Tempo. In 1830 John Rutledge tried to shoot Constantine after he had a stone boundary wall constructed at Tempo. Rutledge tried to escape to America but was caught, convicted of attempted murder and hung. That Constantine had only served six months for a similar offence cannot have escaped notice. However, Constantine himself was viciously murdered on 1 November 1834 at his home at Toureen Lodge, Tipperary, by Ribbonmen.

The origin of Constantine's wife, Frances MacLean, is a mystery. Before she met Constantine, she was mistress of John Hamilton, 1st Marquess of Abercorn (1756-1818), using the name Phoebe FitzJames or Phoebe Butler, whilst she was with him. (Why Butler?) Frances McLean alias "Mrs Hawkins" and the Marquess had several children together. A son called Arthur Charles FitzJames, a daughter, a son called John James who was born in 1800 and died 29 April 1808. He was openly acknowledged and mourned, despite his illegitimacy. Another son, James John FitzJames (1808-1843), became a barrister and Arbitrator for Jamaica. Tragically he was drowned when the *Solway*, which was sailing from Falmouth to the West Indies, ran aground off the coast of Coruna, Spain, with the loss of 35 lives including James' half-American-Indian wife, Arabella Theresa Martin and four of their children.

Frances married Constantine in 1816, but the marriage was unhappy and it is a moot point as to whether Constantine took to living in the Marshalsea because of his debtors or to avoid her.

There was an unfounded belief that Frances was sister to Sir Fitzroy MacLean (1770-1847). She claimed to be the widow of a man named Hawkins but it is questionable whether or not he existed. One account says that she was born at Pallas, Co. Laois, which raises the possibility that she was a daughter of Robert Maclean who is associated with Portlaoise.



Portrait of "Frances Hawkins" and her son, John James Hamilton. Painted about 1806 by Thomas Lawrence.

On 16 January 1777, Robert Maclean purchased property in Portlaoise from Bartholomew Graves that had been previously held by Patrick Cavanagh. Robert was from Randalstown, Co. Antrim, the son of Rev. Dr Clotworthy McLean of Rasharkin, Antrim, evidently named in honour of Sir John Clotworthy, (d.1665) 1st Viscount Massereene, who established a college at Antrim to train Presbyterian ministers. Dr Clotworthy McLean was a son of Rev. John McLean of Grishipoll, Coll, Argyll, Scotland who died in 1729 as Vicar of Kilmory on the Isle of Arran. The Macleans of Grishipoll claimed descent from Hector 'An Cleireach Beag' McLean, 4th Laird of Coll (1508-1565,) who was also the ancestor of the Macleans of Mull. Clotworthy had brothers, Rev. James McLean Curate of Rathlin Island, Antrim (1707-1750) and Rev. John McLean Rector of Billy, Antrim (1699-1795). H.F. Kearney's, 'A Handlist of the Voters of Maryborough, 1760,' (Irish Historical Studies, vol. 9, no. 33, 1954, pp. 53-82) shows two of Clotworthy's sons, Robert and Charles, as freeholders in Portlaoise. Charles is described as being married to the daughter of Parnell's steward.

Burgesses & Freeman	Places of abode [sic]	Observations P.W. Shows who have (or have had) Popish wives
M		
Dead Mitchell Nath Esqr Moses Thomas	Isle of Man	In Mr Westenra's interest So unsteady a man that there can be no dependance had upon him
(P) Moses Andrew	Castledermot	Under the influence of Lord Kiklaro
Martin Godfery [sic]	Marybh	Whoever gives his wife most money will get him p:w
Moor John	near Marybh	Will serve whoever gives him most money p:w
Dead Miles James	Caron	Under the influence of Mr Westenra
Martin Samuel	at the Great Heath	Under Mr Westenra's influence
(P) McGragh John McGragh William	Marybh in England	Under the influence of Mr Coote Run away with his brother John's wife several years ago
Dead Matthews Robert	Marybh	Under Mr Gilbert's influence
(P) McGuire Thomas	Marybh	Under Mr Gilbert's influence chiefly
Marshall The Honble Robert	Dublin	
Moses The Revd Wm	Philipstown	If under any influence probably Counc Whittingham's
(P) Moses Arthur	Marybh	Under the influence of Corn Moor
Manifold John	Kilniskyduff C. Wicklow	Under Mr Howard's influence but will serve Mr Gilbert
(P) Moses James	Marybh	Under Mr Gilbert's influence
(P) Miller John	Mt Mellick	Is a tenant of Mr Dawson's but more under the influence of Mr Pole. James Hazlam may have some on him
March The Revd Terry	near Mt Mellick	In Mr Westenra's interest
(P) Matthews John	Marybh	Under Mr Gilbert's influence but will take money from anyone
(P) Murry Paul	Marybh	Will vote for who gives him most money
McCleane Robert	Marybh	Under the influence of the widow Robison, Harry Knight and in some measure Capn Pigott
(P) McCleane Charles	Marybh	Under the influence of the widow Robison and Harry Knight and Mr Parnell being married to his Stewart's daughter
(P) Mears Benjamin	Marybh	In some measure under the in- fluence of Mr Dawson by his Mother in law
Mears Jacob	Marybh	Under the influence of Mr Parnell
Moor Lewis	A cornet of Dragoons	In Mr Pole's interest
Moses William	Derrygile	Under Mr Westenra's influence but will take money
McCoy William	Imoe	Under Mr Dawson's influence

(www.jstor.org/stable/30006387).

The leases on the Portlaoise properties were renewed on 11 May 1830 by Robert's son, Christopher Maclean.

Lease for three lives renewable for ever, dated 16th day of January, 1777, from Bartholomew Graves to Robert M'Cleane, of all that piece or pieces and parcel of ground, with the houses, gardens, out-offices, backsides, and all other appurtenances thereunto belonging, in as full manner as the same were then occupied by the said Robert M'Cleane and his under tenants, with that piece of ground, houses, and gardens, with all other appurtenances thereunto belonging, as then held by Patrick Cavenagh, all situate on the south side of the west end of the Town of Maryborough, at the yearly rent of £2 16s. 1½d., late currency (equivalent to £2 11s. 10d. present currency), and £1 8s. 1d., late currency (equivalent to £1 5s. 11d. present currency), as a renewal fine on the fall of each life. The last renewal of said lease bears date the 11th day of May, 1830, from William Graves to Christopher M'Cleane, for the lives of William Graves, Henry Graves, and Christopher M'Cleane, all of whom are living.

Leet's Directory of 1812, describes Newpark, Portlaoise, as being the home of John Maclean Esq. John built a house on The Green, Portlaoise, which became home to Rev. Thomas Harpur (Leinster Express, 5 November 1831; Page 4).



The Green, built by the Macleans.



The original fan-lit door case to The Green survives within the Victorian porch.

Francis Maclean Esq., (d.1833) another member of the Portlaoise family, a son of Robert, was an ironmonger in Belfast. His son, Francis McClean Esq., (d.1894) had a dental practice in Dublin and established his family in Ballintubber. His son, Donald Stuart Maclean Gent., (1872-1931) lived in Kellyville House and appears there on the 1911 census. Under occupation, he was happily able to write: 'Income derived from houses, land investments etc (no trade or profession).' Another son of Robert, Adam McClean Esq., (1766-1849) was a wool merchant. The Macleans of Ballintubber were held to be cousins of the Macleans of Ballyadams Castle.

Robert McClean (1730-1808) who purchased the Portlaoise estate in 1777 is thought to be the grandfather of **Captain Robert M'Clean** (1799-1874) who lived in Ballyadams Castle. It is unclear whether or not he moved in as a tenant when it was still owned by the Butlers of Ballyadams House or whether he went to live there after **Thomas Kemmis** of Shaen (1798-1844) acquired it in 1840. One thought is that Captain Robert M'Clean and Major Edward Butler may have served together. In his time, according to his granddaughter, Ellen Shore (1883-1980), who married James Rothwell (1867-1954), he kept a room in the old tower full of guns in case of trouble and he replaced the roof on the old tower with a galvanized one. He was caretaker for a time after Kemmis acquired the property but later appears as a farmer.

In 1867 his wife, Sarah's mantle went missing and she believed that Ann Murray had taken it. On 21 April, Robert searched Murray's house at Ballyadams but did not find it and on 22 April Ann Murray made a complaint about Sarah alleging that she was a thief.

Robert Maclean died on 11 October 1874. The 'Freeman's Journal' of 13 October 1874, wrongly reported the event describing it as a sudden death and giving his name as Michael. His recently married daughter and son-in-law Ellen and William Shore were living with him as well as his son James.

Eleventh Robert 153 1874 Ballyadams Identified	12 th Dec 1874 1874 Held Mined 74 18 days within 14 th Feb 1874 1874	William More resident at death Ballyadams 1874 Registrar
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No. and Letters of References to Map.	Tenants		Description of Tenement.	Content of Land.	Net Annual Value.		
	Townlands and Closures.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	Total.
7	BALLYADAMS—con.	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Daniel Keefe, Esq.	House, office, and land.	A. B. V. 2 3 13	£ s. d. 1 0 0	£ s. d. 0 15 0	£ s. d. 1 15 0
8 A B C D	John Greene, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	33 3 35	16 10 0	1 0 0	19 10 0
9 A B C D	Patrick Dunne, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	63 1 10	40 10 0	2 0 0	42 10 0
10 A B C	Patrick Murray, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	31 3 19	10 0 0	1 0 0	11 0 0
11	James Quigley, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House and land.	10 0 37	6 8 0	0 7 0	6 10 0
12	Walter Hurley, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	Land.	191 0 6	85 10 0	—	85 10 0
— a	Vacant. .	Walter Hurley, .	House and offices, .	—	—	1 10 0	1 10 0
13 A B	Walter Hurley, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House and offices, .	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
— B C	Grave-yard, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	Land.	39 1 9	25 10 0	—	25 10 0
14	Robert McClean, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	Grave-yard, .	0 2 16	0 5 0	—	0 5 0
15	Thomas Byrne, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	3 1 31	2 10 0	4 10 0	7 0 0
16	Patrick Whelan, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	35 0 1	18 0 0	1 10 0	19 10 0
17	William Kelly, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	7 2 6	5 10 0	1 0 0	6 10 0
18	James Nowlan, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	7 0 0	4 7 0	0 13 0	5 0 0
19 a	Mary Cusken, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, office, and land.	8 0 30	4 15 0	0 13 0	5 10 0
20 A B C	Hugh Maher, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, office, and land.	5 3 26	4 15 0	0 13 0	5 10 0
21 a	Jane Dogue, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, office, and land.	4 0 19	3 0 0	0 10 0	3 10 0
— b	R. C. Chapel, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, office, and land.	10 0 19	7 0 0	1 0 0	8 0 0
22	John Kelly, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	R. C. Chapel and yard.	0 1 12	—	13 0 0	13 0 0
23	John Haric, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House and land.	3 0 22	2 3 0	0 7 0	2 10 0
— a	National School, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	Land.	1 3 7	1 5 0	—	1 5 0
24	Thomas Gray, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House.	—	—	2 0 0	2 0 0
25	Edward Butler, Esq.	Arthur W. Hurley, .	House, office, and land.	1 1 25	0 17 0	0 8 0	1 5 0
26	Edward Butler, Esq.	Walter Hurley, .	Land.	2 3 18	2 0 0	—	2 0 0
27	James Murray, .	Reps. Thos. Kemmis, Esq.	House, offices, and land.	53 2 30	48 10 0	19 5 0	67 15 0

Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864.



These rooms in the tower would have been the last to have been occupied. Photo courtesy of Sean Murray.

James Mclean (1846-1920), son of the captain, was employed by the Kemmis family as a gamekeeper but described himself as a farmer by 1878. He lived at the castle until around 1884 before taking work managing an estate in Emloughmore, Connemara. However, he returned to Laois and had a shop in Stradbally in 1888. By 1901 James and his family were living in Balisland, Co. Wicklow, where he was living off his own means. Ten years later he was in Tankardstown, Carlow, where he now described himself as a retired gamekeeper. The 'Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society' (1911) makes the following comment: 'The last person who lived on the premises was a game-keeper named McLean, belonging to the Kemmis family of Shaen, near Emo, in the Queen's County, to whom the castles estates passed in 1840 on the foreclosure of a mortgage, and by whom it has recently been sold to the tenants.' Much of Ballyadams was indeed sold in 1896, although the sale excluded the castle and the Orchard Field. As late as 1913 the House of Commons discussed the eviction of Edward Foley from his holding at Ballyadams by the Kemmis estate. James and his German-born wife, Christina Pfozter, had eleven children. A daughter Elizabeth was governess to the family of land agent Colonel James Dopping of the 6th Rife Brigade and two other daughters, Lily and Louise Kingsmill McLean, were also governesses.

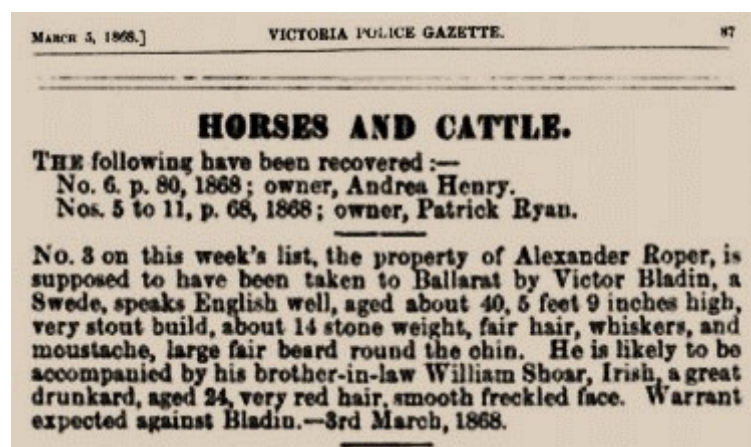
The naming of Louise Kingsmill McLean was in honour of James' grandmother, Sophia Kingsmill who had married into the McCleans. Unfortunately, her husband is always described as 'Mr Mclean.' Sophia was a daughter of John Kingsmill, a wool comber who in November 1760 had been living at Grantstown, Co. Laois when together with his brother-in-law, Robert Palmer, a Dragoon in the Regiment of Light Horse, is named in a deed concerning lands at The Glin and Blackheath in the parish of Killermogh that were in the possession of John Kingsmill and Robert's brothers, Paul and William Palmer. He appears again in December 1765 in a deed of lease and release as John Kingsmill, Gent., of Ballygaug, with his brother, Luke Kingsmill, Gent., of Borris-in-Ossory, and Thomas Conway. The deed states that Thomas Kingsmill of Ballyharadon, Co. Armagh, Gent., had on 25 June 1753, demised to Luke Kingsmill that part of the townlands of Moneymore lying on the south side of the new Turnpike road containing 150 acres and part of the lands of Stranboe containing 50 acres adjoining Moneymore for the natural lives of Thomas Kingsmill the lessor, Margaret his wife and Luke Kingsmill. Luke Kingsmill had claimed to be entitled to 80 acres of land in Clononen that had belonged to his father Henry Kingsmill. Luke's mother, Mary Kingsmill, then a widow, and his wife, Ann Cecil are also mentioned. Another deed dated 12 December 1767 was made between John Kingsmill, farmer of Black Heath, Co. Laois, and William Lodge of Rathmekelly, Co. Laois. On 20 June 1770 there was an indented article of agreement between Thomas Kingsmill of the City of Dublin, John Kingsmill of Donaghmore, Co. Laois Gent., and James Morphy of Rathdowney, Co. Laois, Gent., by which John Kingsmill assigned a yearly rent of ten pounds payable to him out of the lands of Moneymore and Shanboe, Co. Laois, containing about 200 acres, over to Morphy. He sold Monemore and Shanboe to Rev. John Kean in 1793. Another deed dated 17 July 1795, mentions John Kingsmill, his son Anthony, Luke Kingsmill, and Rev. John Kean who married Mary Ann Wade, Richard Vicars, Edward Flood, Thomas Kingsmill and others, concerning the same lands.

John married Eleanor only sister of Paul Palmer of Derreen, and left a will dated 24 February 1801. They had five sons, Henry, Thomas, Luke, Anthony and John, and two daughters, Sophia McClean and Eleanor Abbott. He was then in Borris-in-Ossory, describing himself as 'very weak and feeble of body, but of perfect sound mind and memory.' Going on to claim that the death of his brother Luke entitled him to certain rights, he charged his sons, Luke, Thomas and Anthony, and his grandson, John, son of the deceased Harry, to recover these rights, leaving them each an eighth share of the proceeds if any, otherwise they were each left one shilling and one penny. However, his brother Luke had already left him a shilling as a bar against any such claim. Of the remainder of his presumed rights, John bequeathed one-eighth each to his daughters Eleanor and Sophia and to his son John's children, Elenor and John Kingsmill. He also mentioned that both he and his brother Luke were owed money by 'that Rev. villain,' his brother-in-law, John Kean in the form of a bond for £200. John Kingsmill himself owed money to Samuel White of Roundwood Esq., and Marmaduke Grace, Attorney and he directed that this be paid out of John Kean's bond, the balance of which he left to daughter Sophia, and daughter Eleanor's two sons John and Thomas Abbott. Sophia was also left the remainder of the lease of a house and garden rented from John Kean. He left small portions of the £200 leviable on Moniamore to his daughter Eleanor Abbott, her sons, John and Thomas, and her husband Thomas Abbott, the remainder going to the grandchildren John and Eleanor Kingsmill, who were also left to the care of their

aunt, Eleanor Abbott with the warning that if they married or lived with a papist their legacy was forfeit. The executor was Samuel White of Roundwood.

James Maclean's brother-in-law, **William Shore** (1839-1922) was a member of a farming family from Kilgory, Co. Laois. It is thought that he purchased the castle and the Orchard Field sometime after 1896. The 'Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society' mentions that, 'To the north of the castle, beyond the field in which an old cherry orchard stood, there is a well called Tober-na-Goppal, or "the Well of the Horses."' Another old Irish place name is Boolia-duck (The Milking Place), which is the name of a field at the junction of the roads near the gateway leading into the Castle Field; neither of these names is marked on the six-inch Ordnance Survey maps.'

William Shore had gone out to Australia in the 1860s to try and make his fortune. He appears to have had an adventurous time there with his brother-in-law, Swedish-born Victor Bladin (1831-1900).



In November 1873, Olaf Victor Bladin, to give him his full name was charged with deserting his wife, William's sister Frances, on 11 January 1868. In 1870 their four children were sent to an industrial school at the instance of Frances, whom Bladin had deserted. He had since been discovered working as a sub-contractor at St Kilda and arrested. After he was made to pay various sums over for the upkeep of the children, Frances had her children discharged from the school and sent to her in Gipps Land, where she had managed to acquire some property.

William Shore told his family stories of his adventures in the gold rush, but it appears that he never took out a mining licence. William was robbed near Melbourne in 1869 whilst taking money to his sister Frances sent by her husband Victor. He was struck with an axe and bore a scar across his face from that attack for the rest of his life. Returning to Ireland with some green beer bottles into which some gold nuggets had been hidden, he married Ellen Maclean on 7 May 1874 at Ballintubber. Things weren't going well and in 1876 he got accommodation at one of the gate lodges at Stradbally Hall but he argued with Robert Cosby (1837-1920) and promptly left. It is not clear how he came to be working as a gardener in Belfast where his daughter Ellen was born at 10 Lowther Place on 2 May 1883. It is believed that the Shores were back living at Ballyadams Castle by 1896 when the estate was sold to the tenants. There was an argument between the agents and the Shores over the furniture in the castle, particularly about an antique clock, a Maclean heirloom. Nevertheless, the auctioneers sold the furniture, including the

clock, insisting that everything belonged to the Kemmis estate. The date that William Shore is supposed to have purchased the castle and the Orchard Field is not known. And the family were gone by 1901 although they may have lived back at Ballyadams at other times after that. The Shores were living at Naas in Co. Kildare in 1905. William did eventually buy a farm but sold it and retired with his wife Ellen to Oldtown, Abbeylax.



William Shore and Ellen Maclean.



In 1910, William Shore, much to his wife's disapproval, is said to have taken part in the Old age Pensioner's race at Blandsfort and won it.

Frances Shore Bladin's grandson, William Shore's grand-nephew, was Air Vice Marshal Francis Masson Bladin CB, CBE (1898-1978) of Box Hill, Victoria, Australia. During 1942 and 1943, with meagre forces at his disposal, he reorganised Australia's defences and successfully defended the country in the air from the threat of Japanese invasion. He was much respected by those who served under him. A Presbyterian, he married a Catholic and later organised the multi-faith Anzac Memorial Chapel at St Paul, Duntroon.



Air Vice Marshal Francis Masson Bladin.

There were a few legends the Shores passed on about the castle. One is that during a dance held there a woman was found murdered and a servant was suspected as he had been seen earlier with an axe. When questioned he said he had only used it to knock down a nail in the floor because a woman had caught her dress on it during the dance. When her body was examined, it was noticed that there was a mark of a nail on the sole of her shoe and it could be seen that there were marks on the floor showing that a nail had been knocked in and so nothing could be proved against the man. Another story is that every expectant mother who had lived in the castle by tradition gave birth to her child on the stairs of the great tower. Up to the late 1800s, dances were held on the roof of the castle to which the locals were invited to attend.

The castle was in the possession of **Dermot Hurley** (1868-1916) by the early 1900s. Dermot played host to an outing of the Kildare Archaeological Society to Ballyadams Castle organised by Lord Walter FitzGerald on 27 September 1911. The excursion coincided with a railway strike that prevented some from joining the tour but three cars were volunteered to help out and it was well attended by about 30 members, despite the rain. After seeing the castle, they went on to see the ruins of the church. It was described how the previous year, a couple of Hurley's cattle had climbed the spiral stairs, one going into a room on the first landing, and the other coming out beside the corrugated iron roof at the battlements. A butcher from Athy was called but fortunately, the cattle were got down safe.



Ballyadams Castle, 'Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society' (1914).

Dermot Hurley died in 1916. Described as a gentleman in his will, he left just £10, his nephew Gerald Hurley being his heir.

HURLEY Dermot [490] 21 August Administration of the Estate of Dermot Hurley late of Ballyadams Ballylinan Queen's County Gentleman who died **7 February 1916** granted at **Dublin** to Gerald Hurley Cattle Dealer Effects £10

Dermot's family had been tenant farmers in Ballyadams for generations. His brother, Rev. Walter Francis Hurley, was Catholic curate of Delgany, Co. Wicklow. Their father, Walter Hurley (1813-1878) of Cappanafeade, had been one of the larger farmers around Ballyadams, and by the 1870s he was also farming at Oldconnell, Kildare. Thomas Kemmis of Shaen (1837-1906), Gerald Villers Butler of Ballyadams House, Samuel Connolly of Athy, George Taylor of Dublin and Walter Hurley of Old Connell Esq, were members of a drainage scheme for Ballyadams in 1877.

[40 VICT.] *The Drainage and Improvement of Lands* [Ch. ix.]
Supplemental Act (Ireland), 1877.

That the Drainage Board for said district shall consist of five members :

That the following persons shall be the members of the first Drainage Board ; viz.,

Thomas Kemmis, of Shaen, in the Queen's County, Esquire ;

Gerald Villiers Butler, of Ballyadams, in the Queen's County, Esquire,
agent of Mrs. Juliana Booth ;

Samuel Connolly, of Athy, in the county of Kildare, Esquire, agent of
the Reverend Benjamin H. Johnson, Clerk ;

Walter Hurley, of Old Connell, in the county of Kildare, Esquire ; and
George Taylor, of No. 14, Anglesea Street, in the city of Dublin,
Esquire :

The 'Kildare Observer' of 6 March 1897 records that Gerald Hurley, of Old Connell, Dermot Hurley's nephew, was the purchaser of Ballymany House and its 118-acre farm near Newbridge, for £2,200.

It seems that a family may have taken up residence in the tower until the 1920s or so. Whether or not the castle and Orchard Field were being rented from William Shore is unclear but Shore's daughter maintained that he never actually sold it. Local tradition has it that the place was rendered uninhabitable after the well was poisoned. This was possibly because Dermot Hurley had served in the RIC and had made a number of arrests around Ballylinan in his day.

Notes:

Michael Powell Siddons, 'Welsh Pedigree Rolls - Further Additions and Corrections', NLWJ, 36.3 (2016), 266-270.

P.C. Bartrum, *Welsh Genealogies A.D. 300-1400* (Cardiff, 1974), pp. 863, 865.

Lord Walter FitzGerald, 'Ballyadams in the Queen's County, and the Bowen Family', in *Journal of the Archaeological Society of the County of Kildare and Surrounding Districts*, 7 (1912-1914), 3-32.

Rhys Morgan, *The Welsh and the Shaping of Early Modern Ireland 1558-1641* (Woodbridge, 2014), pp. 76, 146, 193, 197.

Sir Edward Gerald Butler - Geni:
<https://www.geni.com/people/Sir-Edward-Gerald-Butler/6000000001333629524>.

O'Byrne, *History of the Queen's County*, 1856.

O'Hanlon, *History of the Queen's County*, 1914.

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<https://laoishouses.wordpress.com/2021/11/26/ballyadams-castle/>